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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, January 30, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, Jr., of Arlington, VA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, Jr., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

God of the Nations, Lord of History, Thy Word declares that, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."—Psalms 127:1. Again, it is written, " * * * let every man take heed how he buildeth * * *"—1 Cor. 3:10b.

Though much of the burden for building our Nation rests upon the "council of elders"¹ within this Senate, we know that unless Thy decrees uphold us, the hours we spend in our best legislation are in vain.

In the words of President Lincoln, whose birth we soon celebrate: "Without the assistance of that Divine Being * * * I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well."²

Once again, in the urgency of this hour, we beseech Thee for divine assistance. We pray for a hedge of enlightened restraint around this "necessary fence"³ of the Senate. For through this body, regulations must pass that will

either strengthen or weaken our country.

As pressures mount for instant solutions to complex problems, grant those who hold this "senatorial trust"⁴ the calm resolve to be not driven by public restlessness, nor drifting in stubborn idleness, but drawn by Thy vision of righteousness—which upholdeth the Nation.

And if the machinery of government seems to turn too slowly against the tide of national anxiety, may those who labor here take courage from the tortoise who, by perseverance, reached the ark, even in the face of an impending flood. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the time for the two leaders has been reserved and there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 10 a.m, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the following Senators to speak for up to the designated times: Senator THURMOND, 15 minutes; Senator CAMPBELL, 10 minutes, and Senator ROBB 5 minutes.

At the hour of 10 a.m, the Senate will resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget constitutional amendment, with Senator PACKWOOD to be recognized for up to 60 minutes. At the hour of 11 o'clock, Senator DASCHLE will be recognized for up to 15 minutes, to be followed by Senator DOLE for up to 15 minutes. At the hour of 11:30, the Senate will vote on or

in relation to a second-degree amendment to the motion to refer.

Therefore, Senators should be on notice that there will be a rollcall vote at 11:30 this morning.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. THURMOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 383 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, today, it is my distinct honor to reflect on the accomplishments of Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, who has been serving as our guest Chaplain for this week. Rabbi Haberman's credentials and accomplishments are numerous, but let me take a minute to highlight some of his achievements.

Rabbi Haberman is the founder and president of the Foundation for Jewish Studies which sponsors a large variety of Jewish Study programs for the Greater Washington community. He is rabbi emeritus of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, the largest and oldest congregation in the District of Columbia and a past-president of the Washington Board of Rabbis.

¹The word "Senate" is derived from the Latin word, "senatus", "council of elders".

²These words were spoken by President-elect Lincoln as he left Springfield, Illinois, for Washington, D.C., in February, 1861 (McCollister, John. "So Help Me God", Landmark Books, p. 81 (1982)).

³James Madison referred to the Senate as a "necessary fence" of "enlightened citizens" whose responsibility it was to protect the rights and property of its citizens against "public impetuosity".

⁴Alexander Hamilton spoke of a "senatorial trust."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Rabbi Haberman is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, he was ordained as rabbi at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, OH, where he also earned the degree of doctor of Hebrew letters. Also of interest regarding his academic background is the fact that he is the last Austrian to be enrolled for rabbinic studies at the Jewish Theological Institute of Vienna and he later left the institute following the Nazi invasion in 1938 and continued his studies in the United States.

He is a member of the board of alumni overseers of the HUC-JIR and he has served on the executive board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. In addition he was the cochairman of the North American board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Rabbi Haberman's academic accomplishments include authoring a book titled, "The God I Believe In," which is conversations about Judaism with 14 prominent Jews in our society. He has also authored an academic work titled, "Philosopher of Revelation: The Life and Thought of S.L. Steinheim." In addition to being an author, Rabbi Haberman has served as an adjunct professor at many institutions including: Georgetown, Wesley Theological Seminary, American University, and Rutgers.

Rabbi Haberman was also instrumental in developing a very important religious dialog with the Roman Catholic diocese of Washington, DC, and evangelical Christian leaders as well. In addition to his ecumenical work, he initiated a Moslem-Jewish dialog with Imam Wallace D. Muhammad of the World Community of Islam in the West. The two above-mentioned accomplishments demonstrate Rabbi Haberman's dedication to working across religious and cultural barriers. They demonstrate the rabbi's willingness to leave his comfort zone and build bridges with those of different religious and cultural affiliations.

It is evident by these accomplishments that he is a man who is truly driven by his religious convictions rather than ideological associations. He has demonstrated that his life is wholly affected by his religious commitments. It is an honor to share the floor with him.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I understand the status of the situation on the floor is that we are in morning business; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

THE BUDGET AND THE CHALLENGE OF CONTROLLING DEFICITS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, to put this debate on the budget situation in context, I hope that we will keep in mind the difficulty that Congress has had over the years, and each administration in recent years, in trying to cope with this very, very difficult challenge of controlling deficits.

In 1960, for example, interest payments on our national debt amounted to 6 percent of the Federal budget. Today, that figure has grown to 16 percent. That is the percentage of the total expenditures that will be required to be appropriated and paid in interest on the current debt in the next fiscal year, according to the President's budget.

Last year, the Federal Government paid a total of \$203 billion in interest on the existing debt. The budget just submitted by the President calls for spending \$257 billion in the next fiscal year on interest on the accumulated debt.

By comparison, Senators might be interested to know that if these interest costs are as they are projected to be next year by the President's budget, we will spend just about as much on interest payments as we will on national defense.

The national defense dollars that are requested by the President to be appropriated for our Nation's security next year are at \$262 billion in the President's budget; the interest payments, \$257 billion, a \$5 billion difference. In a \$1.6 trillion budget, the percentage is about the same, 16 percent.

It seems to me that to believe we are going to be able to meet this challenge of controlling deficits more effectively without some requirement to do so or some new procedures in place such as this constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget is a triumph of hope over experience.

One item that I received in my mail this week from a constituent was very interesting from a historical perspective. Andy Halbrook is a resident of Greenville, MS. His father, David Halbrook, has been a member of our State legislature for a number of years and one of our important influences in State government. He sent me a Reader's Digest article of July 1979 which talked about the origin of the movement for State legislators to petition the Government for a constitutional convention to require a balanced budget.

I am going to read the first paragraph and put the rest of it in the RECORD with this letter for the information of Senators.

In Ollie Mohamed's Belzoni, Miss., department store—

Ollie Mohamed was a State Senator at the time—

a group was discussing Federal spending, inflation and Congress's perennial inability to balance the budget. State legislator David Halbrook spoke of his new grandchild: "That

baby is going to have to pay for the things I'm enjoying. It ought to be the other way around. I ought to leave the world a little better for him."

This article goes on to talk about the conversation that then led to, well, what are we going to do about it? And one of them got the Constitution down and read here where it is provided the State legislatures can petition the Congress to convene a constitutional convention to amend the Constitution, and they decided that it ought to be done. And so David Halbrook led the effort in the Mississippi legislature to have that resolution passed. Then some other States got involved. The National Taxpayers Union got involved. And according to this article, over a period of years they almost reached the point where they were successful. They were four States short at the time this article was written in 1979.

Andrew—"Andy"—Halbrook, David's son, suggests that we ought to name this legislation the "David Halbrook Act," requiring the Congress to balance the budget as a matter of constitutional amendment. I think it is a good suggestion.

I ask unanimous consent that Andy Halbrook's letter be printed in the RECORD, along with the article from the Reader's Digest.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GREENVILLE, MS,
February 2, 1995.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Dear SENATOR COCHRAN: The balanced budget amendment is one of the most important pieces of legislation that will be considered in my lifetime and possibly in the lifetime of my children. It will have a much tougher row to hoe in the Senate than in the House. In light of this I would like to offer a suggestion that could perhaps significantly help to assure its passage.

In positioning for public approval, acceptance and support a product or a service or even a piece of legislation, perception is reality. Unless the populace can be overwhelmingly convinced to support something as broad-ranging as the balanced budget amendment it may be doomed to failure no matter how good its attributes. The way to get the popular support needed to be indomitably successful in this venture is to personalize it and to make everyone realize this is a grassroots idea from outside the beltway. In light of this please consider the following:

The balanced budget amendment was spawned in Belzoni, Mississippi by my father, Rep. David Halbrook and former Senator Ollie Mohamed. Please see the attached Reader's Digest article in testimony to this fact.

Due to his continuity of service in the Mississippi Legislature and active leadership roles in the American Legislative Exchange Council, the National Conference of State Legislators, the Southern Legislative Conference and other organizations, David Halbrook has been the torch-bearer for this idea since its inception.

Based on these facts I am asking that you consider naming the balanced budget amendment "The Halbrook Amendment". This will do many things to accelerate and maintain the momentum of this legislation.